

## Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4070

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S E C R E T RABAT 6096

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN MO CB

SUBJECT: KHMER IN THE 29TH UNGA: MOROCCAN ABSTENTION ON  
CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE

REF: A. USUN 6014; B. RABAT 6065

1. DURING INFORMAL MEETING WITH ROYAL CABINET DIRECTOR BENSOU DA DEC. 18 ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, I RAISED MOROCCO'S ABSTENTION ON SYRIAN CHALLENGE TO GKR'S CREDENTIALS. BENSOU DA'S RESPONSE WAS EMPHATIC. "PLEASE INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT," HE SAID, THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO MOROCCAN UN DELEGATION TO VOTE WITH US ON ALL ASPECTS OF KHMER QUESTION HAD BEEN GIVEN PERSONALLY BY KING HASSAN. MOROCCO, BENSOU DA NOTED, HAD NOTHING TO GAIN BY ABSTAINING ON THIS PROCEDURAL QUESTION WHEN IT HAD ALREADY VOTED IN FAVOR OF GKR ON SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION.

2. GIVEN THESE INSTRUCTIONS, BENSOU DA SAID, GOM AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND HOW MOROCCAN DELEGATE ZAIMI COULD HAVE ABSTAINED ON SYRIAN MOTION. INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY, HE ADDED.

3. I THEN RAISED ZAIMI'S EXPLANATION THAT HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON AMENDMENT QUESTION. THIS POSITION, CABINET DIRECTOR SAID, SIMPLY DID NOT HOLD WATER. ZAIMI'S INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD SEEN, LEFT NO ROOM

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WHATSOEVER FOR DOUBT.

4. INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND, BENSOU DA NOTED, HAPPEN ALL TOO FREQUENTLY. HE MENTIONED SPECIFIC INCIDENT IN WHICH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAD REACHED COMMON POSITION ON A PARTICULAR UN ISSUE AND NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO GOM UN DELEGATION. EVEN IN THIS CASE, DELEGATION HAD MANAGED TO VIOLATE INSTRUCTIONS AND VOTE AGAINST KING'S AND HOUPHOUET'S WISHES. PROBLEMS OF THIS KIND, BENSOU DA SAID, SEEM TO COME UP ROUGHLY ONCE EVERY SESSION. AT THIS POINT, I NOTED THE FREQUENCY OF ERROR WAS AT LEAST AS GREAT AS BENSOU DA HAD SAID SINCE MOROCCO HAD ABSTAINED ON PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION IN 28TH UNGA AFTER TELLING US SPECIFICALLY THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT OUR POSITION (USUN 5521, DEC. 11, 1973).

5. BENSOU DA NOTED THAT HE BARELY KNEW ZAIMI WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A MIDDLE-LEVEL FUNCTIONARY OF NO GREAT ABILITY. PERHAPS, GIVEN PRESSURE WHICH ZAIMI HAD SURELY BEEN FEELING AS RESULT OF EARLIER VOTE ON KHMER ISSUE, HE HAD SIMPLY CHOSEN TO INTERPRET THE INSTRUCTIONS AS NOT COVERING SITUATION CREATED BY SYRIAN AMENDMENT AND HAD THEREFORE FELT HE COULD ABSTAIN.

6. COMMENT: BENSOU DA HAS BECOME ONE OF KING'S MOST INFLUENTIAL ADVISORS SINCE TAKING OVER AS CABINET DIRECTOR LAST SPRING. I AM CONFIDENT THAT MY DEMARCHE TO HIM WILL BE BROUGHT TO KING'S ATTENTION.  
NEUMANN

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## Message Attributes

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